

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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HARGUINDEGUY DISCUSSES NATIONAL POLITICAL TIMETABLE

PY082146 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0200 GMT 8 May 79 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 7 May (TELAM)--"When the time for political parties arrives, they will be here not only to govern that sector of the people who voted for them but to govern all Argentines; consequently, political parties must make politics for everybody and not just for themselves."

Interior Minister Albano Eduardo Harguindeguy last night made this and other statements on a television program in which he discussed the political proposal, dialog, subversion, constitutional reform, the institutionalization of the military and other issues.

About what will happen when political parties start governing, he explained: "I have always said that those norms which will be structured in this national reorganization process and those of the political parties are aimed at producing future statesmen--not men who are merely able to gather votes on election day, but men who are able to assume the responsibility of governing the entire nation."

Harguindeguy added: "I believe there will be a political project this year." He asserted that "undoubtedly the next president will be a military officer. I believe this is the unanimous feeling of the armed forces. I do not believe anyone can truly think we will have an elected president by 1981."

He said he believes the hiatus in political activity can actually help this and not be harmful, because "the fact of not having to deal with partisan power struggles within the parties enables the party leaders to have more time to study national problems." Addressing a reporter, he said, "You can see for yourself the number of groups and centers that have sprung up, and all of them are making true politics."

He said that "a rules-and-regulations decree for the political parties statute will be issued. We hope this political maturity of Argentines will force each of the political parties to put into practice the principle of reorganization [renovacion] so that the young people, and only the best of these, may gradually have access to party office." He added: "I hope that in the future we will not have the same leader heading a specific political party for 30 or 40 years."

He reasserted his idea that a constitutional reform may be necessary. He noted that "someone must insure that a republican, representative and federal government rules in Argentina. Someone must prevent the necessity of the military intervening in the political scene in order to break up a constitutional process which, although it may appear legal in its formal aspects, is full of vices. Someone must prevent the necessity for the military to restore this legality within a given period."

Despite this, he said, he is in favor of institutionalizing the military presence in the government: "We cannot deny the existence of politicians, and politicians cannot deny the existence of military officers and the fact that these military men are as interested as they are in everything that relates to government action and great national objectives."

He added: "The truth is that the military factor, as well as other factors, play an active part in our national life. The history of Argentina and of South America proves this. To deny it would be a lie. This fact must be institutionalized."

About the manner of this institutionalization, he said "military power must participate in important and essential decisionmaking. It does not have to be in all areas of government action, but it must share responsibility with the civilian power in those important decisions regarding the life of the nation itself and of the democratic republican and federal government."

He said, "We must be alert because the fact that armed subversion has been eradicated does not mean that there may not be new outbreaks."

Regarding the political proposal, he said that "it will include objectives and policies but without going into an implementation." He added, "The implementation aspect must be in the hands of the executive branch," but, he said, "this is a very personal opinion."

MINISTER DISCUSSES NEW LABOR ASSOCIATIONS LAW

PY081604 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0115 GMT 8 May 79 PY

[Text] Corrientes, 7 May (TELAM)--Labor Minister Llamil Reston announced last night at a press conference that the Labor Ministry has finished drafting the law on the workers union associations, and that this will be submitted to the executive branch on Wednesday.

The minister disclosed that the law provides in general terms for complete freedom of association. The union having the most representation will be granted union status by the authorities, but other registered unions which obtain a greater majority than that obtained by the original union will be granted that union's status.

Brig Gen Llamil Reston added that union association will rely strictly on union funds and noted that Law No 18,619 is not the patrimony of unions. He added that the law provides for the existence of second-level federations whose board will be made up of the secretary of the federation and the general secretaries of the concurring unions. The federations and concurring unions are eligible to hold conventions. He noted that unions or federations will be able to develop activities for profit, but may be able to organize mutual associations or cooperatives that will be guided by the proper laws. Union leaders will serve a 3-year term and may seek reelection for a similar term only once. If they choose to run for office again they will have to wait for the same number of years that they have been in office.

Asked about the CGT [General Labor Confederation], General Reston answered that the draft law does not provide for a body of this nature because it specifically forbids third-level associations.

Concerning the forthcoming ILO meeting, the labor minister said Argentina is a member of this international body. He added: "We must attend the ILO meeting with a tripartite delegation, and I hope that when the time comes this delegation will be complete and that nothing will spoil this, since no one has the right to submit the country to this kind of situation."

He said the so-called day of protest did not obtain support because only a small number of workers were absent from their places of work. He added: "The situation of the arrested labor leaders will be solved in the courts."

He noted that this day of protest had more of a political than a labor tone because union leaders who originated it requested that the professional association law and the social works law, among others which are outside the labor field, not be modified. Reston added that "this would be like saying that nothing has happened in this country and nothing needs to be modified."

He believes that if there is no need to make any substantial modifications to union associations draft law, it may be approved by the end of May or the beginning of June. After approval there will be 120 days for enforcement, and later the normalization process will be gradually introduced. General Reston said basic salaries in the private sector will experience a 70-percent increase by July, and this means that for the first time the increase will be above the inflation rate.

He discounted the possibility of the government intervening in any more unions. He also disclosed that by the end of May business organizations may be normalized, "but this will not mean that we will have to reorganize them as they were before." He said the greatest freedom of action will be given to businessmen so they may form associations, chambers or federations if this is to the benefit of the sectors.

COST OF LIVING RISES 7 PERCENT IN APRIL

PY090139 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2250 GMT 8 May 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 May (TELAM)--The average level of consumer prices rose 7 percent during April over the previous month. Thus, the increase for the first 4 months of this year totals 39.7 percent. Average wholesale prices increased 6.2 percent during this same period. Finally, the average level of the cost of construction for April increased 9.5 percent over the March figures.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN OIL PREDICTED FOR 1983

PY082114 Buenos Aires LA OPINION in Spanish 6 May 79 p 8 PY

[Text] According to an estimate made by Energy Coordination Under Secretary Federico Luis Amadeo just before leaving for Europe, Argentina will achieve self-sufficiency in oil in 1983. The official remarked that "self-sufficiency could be achieved between 1983 and 1985," but he indicated that "1983 can, without being risky, be given as a date."

Amadeo left for Rome to join Energy Secretary Daniel Brunella, who went to Europe with the economy minister. Brunella proposes to give talks on Argentine energy policy at enterprises that belong to the Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi (ENI) and discuss matters pertaining to the central-west gas pipeline, for which bids will be opened soon.

Asked about the receptivity of the risk contract proposed by Argentina, Amadeo indicated that he was satisfied, remarking that "we have already granted an important bid to Shell in two maritime areas with an investment amounting to \$135 million." He added: "Every 2 or 3 months there will be new bids put out for the allotment of maritime areas located further out than those already granted."

Regarding the world energy crisis and its effects on Argentina, Amadeo stressed that at the present time no country can be isolated as regards energy, even when "our country is in a privileged situation regarding many other countries."

"In the Argentine situation," he warned, "despite the fact that the volume of oil that is imported is very small, there can still be problems." In this respect, he explained that the so-called oil crisis does not exist now because a crisis is a transitory situation, and this crisis has been going on so long now that it has become institutionalized.

Asked about the possibility of following in Brazil's footsteps and using alcohol to power vehicles, Amadeo remarked that this is currently under study and that the use of ethyl alcohol--a byproduct of sugarcane--is being undertaken.

MADERO NOTES DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR PROJECTS

PY081653 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2310 GMT 7 May 79 PY

[Excerpt] Malargue, Mendoza, 7 May (TELAM)--At the dedication of the expansion of the uranium plant here today, the chairman of the National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA], Rear Adm Carlos Castro Madero, asserted: "The basis of the Argentine nuclear plan is to be found in the development of our nuclear mineral mines, which will feed our future nuclear plants. It is our mission, our undeniable duty, once we have achieved self-sufficiency, to maintain this situation by increasing the prospecting, extraction and refining of uranium concentrates."

He added: "This will permit Argentina to increase the development of its nuclear mining industry and obtain full autonomy in the production of fuel, and to strengthen regional collaboration on a large scale with the sister republics of America."

He indicated that the plant's activities had begun in 1954, when uranium and copper were processed from the old Huemul mine, which is now exhausted. A new plant was built in 1964 with more advanced technology, and today the third stage begins in "response to the Argentine nuclear plan, which in turn requires an ever-increasing supply of nuclear minerals."

He indicated that in 3 years CNEA has put into operation the Pichinan industrial complex in the center of the Patagonian region. It has carried out the expansion of the Tonco industrial complex in the mountains of Salta Province, and in Malargue it has tripled production. He remarked that an annual production of 185 tons needed for the Atucha and Embalse plants is hoped for.

He indicated that with the conclusion of the pile-leaching plant, which is being built in San Rafael, Mendoza Province, a production of 220 tons a year will be achieved. He remarked that he is also dedicating the expansion of the sulfuric acid plant today, increasing its capacity to 30 tons a day.

SOVIET TECHNICIANS TO ARRIVE FOR PARANA STUDY

PY080346 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1415 GMT 7 May 79 PY

[Excerpts] Santa Fe, 7 May (LATIN)--A Soviet technical mission will arrive here Wednesday to begin feasibility studies for the Middle Parana hydroelectric projects, one which includes various dams and the irrigation network in this Argentine coastal province.

According to agreements signed by the two countries, the Soviets will study the preliminary project for 1 month and visit the site of one of the dams in the Santa Rosa district on the Santa Fe coast and in the Hernandarias area, in the neighboring province of Entre Rios.

COMMUNISTS WITHDRAW FROM LABOR CONFERENCE IN PROTEST

FY081451 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1728 GMT 7 May 79 FY

[Text] La Paz, 7 May (LATIN)--About 175 communist union delegates today withdrew from the congress of the Bolivian Labor Central [COB] being held here amid protests over the leadership of the assembly, according to announcements made today by spokesmen of the organization. The withdrawal awakened fears of a profound union division, while the assembly, which began on 1 May, confronted problems concerning the recognition of the power of the delegates.

In abandoning the debates, the group of 175 persons, all members of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party, accused the leaders of the conference of acting out of parochial interests and violating COB statutes. Union leaders surmised that the discrepancies in the labor sector are the result of competition among the political parties to gain a foothold in the union field as Bolivia nears its presidential elections scheduled for 1 July.

Conference Conclusion

FY082126 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1881 GMT 8 May 79 FY

[Text] La Paz, 8 May (LATIN)--The fifth congress of the Bolivian Labor Central (COB), which encompasses all the Bolivian workers, concluded here today with the re-election of Juan Lechin Oquendo to the highest labor post in the country and with a predominance of labor leaders from the pro-Soviet Communist Party. After 8 days of discussions, 800 labor leaders decided to agree that the "final goal of the labor struggle is that of imposing socialism as a system of government."

Labor leaders who are militants in the Bolivian Communist Party (pro-Soviet) are among the members of the new executive committee. This national meeting of the Bolivian proletariat began on 1 May for the first time in 9 years after being banned by decree on 21 August 1971, when Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez assumed power.

From the beginning the discussions were characterized by a strong influence exerted by the political parties and fronts that will participate in the 1 July elections. The clash was unleashed especially between militants of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party (pro-Beijing), which supports former President Victor Paz Estenssoro as presidential candidate, and labor leaders who support the Democratic and Popular Unity Front [FUDP], of which the Bolivian Communist Party is a member, and which supports former President Hernan Siles Zuazo as candidate.

The disagreement reached dangerous levels yesterday and threatened to divide the COB when a group of Marxist-Leninist communist leaders left the meeting. The withdrawal of the pro-Beijing leaders allowed the FUDP to occupy most key posts in the COB's executive committee.

The congress approved a program of immediate struggle that demands a general increase in wages and urges that a "true revolutionary and popular government proceed to nationalize foreign trade and all mining centers linked to imperialist capital." It also demanded that the new constitutional government "nationalize foreign banking and expel transnational enterprises."

UNION LEADER SAYS BANZER MAY BE PLANNING COUP

PY081426 Paris AFP in Spanish 0227 GMT 8 May 79 PY

[Excerpts] La Paz, 7 May--The Bolivian military government fears that former President Hugo Banzer may be planning a coup d'etat to stop the elections, union leader Eusebio Gironda said here today. Gironda spoke to 15,000 teachers who demonstrated today in downtown La Paz to demand a salary increase equivalent to \$250 per month. The demonstration was peaceful and was under police protection at all times.

In a speech to the teachers, Gironda noted that Interior Minister Raul Lopez Leyton told him a few minutes before the start of the demonstration of his fear that former President Hugo Banzer may be planning a coup d'etat to stop the general elections. Gironda is the top union leader of La Paz education workers. Gironda's statement caused surprise among the public and again cast an uncertain shadow on the national political situation.

Government Denial

PY090246 Paris AFP in Spanish 2032 GMT 8 May 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 8 May (AFP)--The military government today denied the danger of a coup d'etat in Bolivia. The interior minister, Lt Col Raul Lopez Leyton, said there is absolute calm throughout the country and that recent incidents of party violence should not be magnified during the electoral campaign. Lopez Leyton reasserted the government's total neutrality with respect to candidates in order to insure government impartiality during the upcoming elections.

BRIEFS

NEW WEEKLY--A new weekly called TRIBUNA will be released in La Paz in the next few days. It has been made clear that this weekly will not be the mouthpiece of any party or political front, and that it will be primarily aimed at promoting freedom of the press. [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 25 Apr 79 p 3 PY]

SHIPPING ENTERPRISE--Rear Adm Rene Torrez (Saavedra), commander of the Bolivian naval force, has recently had long meetings with executives of a German shipping firm, during which details of the formation of the Bolivian Shipping Lines were established. The recently formed Bolivian Shipping Enterprise will operate independently of the Bolivian naval force and with German cooperation. The first ship of the line, which will sail between the Pacific coast and Europe, will arrive a Callao on 16 May. [La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 May 79 PY]

PNEUMATIC TOOL PLANT--Industry and Commerce Minister Oscar Fanno yesterday inaugurated the industrial plant of Atlas-Copco Andina, built 35 km southeast of La Paz by the Swedish transnational enterprise Atlas-Copco with an investment of 120 million pesos. The plant will produce pneumatic tools and industrial compressors for the market of the Andean Pact countries. [La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 5 May 79 PY]

STATE BANK PRESIDENT--(Jorge Balcazar Aranibar), president of the State Bank, has submitted his resignation to President David Padilla, alleging disagreements over policies with the Finance Ministry. [La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 May 79 PY]

FINANCE MINISTER REVEALS APRIL INFLATION FIGURES

PY080353 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 5 May 79 p 1 PY

[Text] The 3.8-percent inflation rate in April (3.4 percent in April 1978) represented a 34.5-percent drop from the 5.8-percent rate in March, but did not lower the annual inflation rate. Instead this rose from 46.1 percent in March to 46.7 in April. The cost of living increased by 3.8 percent in Rio de Janeiro in April, a 15.5-percent reduction from the 4.5 percent increase in March, and brought the annual cost of living increase up to 47 percent, higher than the 45.4-percent readjustment in the regional minimum wage.

In announcing these figures, Finance Minister Karlos Rischbieter said "the April figure shows that the March inflation rate was exceptionally high and that inflation is not galloping toward 6 percent per month." The inflation rate drop in April, the minister said, "resulted from the scare we had and from the measures the government adopted to curb price increases.

Rischbieter observed, however, that it will be difficult to maintain an average inflation rate increase of 2.2 percent from May through the end of the year, to have a 40-percent yearly inflation rate. Regarding the anti-inflationary measures adopted on 18 April, the minister said he has noted that interest rates did not come down right away.

He announced that a set of measures is under study, aiming specifically at the financial system, whose loans to the private sector increased by 55.78 percent over the 12-month period ending in March. There will be a restriction in funds transferred from official banks and some disciplinary measures on the open market, in addition to other measures.

NUCLEAR PROGRAM GETS 4.3 BILLION CRUZEIROS

PY090136 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 May 79 p 1 PY

[Text] President Figueiredo yesterday signed a decree law transferring from PETROBRAS to the nuclear sector and ELETROBRAS the funds provided for by Article 12 of Law No 4,452/64 which deals with the price structure of oil fuels. By this decree the nuclear sector will receive 4.3 billion cruzeiros distributed between NUCLEBRAS, CNEN [National Nuclear Energy Commission] and ELETROBRAS. The latter will also use these funds in development of new techniques for production of power. PETROBRAS will retain 1.43 billion cruzeiros of the 5.73 billion to be collected at the rate of 5 percent of the price of gasoline, kerosene and liquified gas.

STATES CAN IMPOSE NATIONAL SECURITY LAW IN STRIKES

PY082042 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 May 79 p 1 PY

[Text] The Federal Government will sign with other state agreements identical to the one it signed last week with the state of Sao Paulo, granting authority to state police to investigate violations of the national security law and to apply the penalties provided for in this law. By doing so, the government intends to deal "politically with various strikes of workers and public servants," according to a Brasilia source.

The same source said Justice Minister Petronio Portella "assumed political command of the strikes," thus becoming responsible for coordinating and using any federal instrument to be resorted to henceforth, including interventions in unions. He will have to be consulted by state governors before adopting any repressive measures.

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Minister on Strikes

PY090214 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 8 May 79 FY

[Text] Social Communications Minister Said Farhat stated today that socioeconomic problems do not pose any threat to President Figueiredo's political relaxation program. He said: We are now going through a stage of transition, in which society and the nation are adjusting to new social and political conditions.

He added that the government knew from the very moment it decided to implement relaxation that socioeconomic problems might occur. He noted, however, that these problems were not caused by, but merely came to the surface because of, the relaxation. Farhat also said that although political relaxation did not prompt the workers' demands, it encouraged them. He asserted that the March inflation rate was in no way related to political relaxation.

He said the federal government has not changed its position regarding strikes by public servants--there can be no strike by public servants because it is banned by both the Constitution and the law. He said these are merely cases of indiscipline which fall entirely within the jurisdiction of state governments. He said the government's intervention in unions does not mean a regression in the relaxation process since the objective is to place unions back within the framework of the law.

He also stated that the socioeconomic policy has not stalled. The timetable will be kept by the president: For instance, amnesty will be decreed on at a date determined by Figueiredo.

Sao Paulo Hospital Workers

PY081438 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 8 May 79 FY

[Text] Personnel of the Sao Paulo Clinic hospital have established their position regarding the government's counterproposal for a wage increase. Reporter (Rene Reinaldo) has more details on the subject. [Begin Reinaldo recording] We have asked (Domingo Braga Santana), chairman of the hospital's personnel association, what the reaction was to the proposal made yesterday by State Governor Paulo Salim Maluff:

[Braga] The meeting which is now being attended by almost all the hospital personnel at their association building, felt very frustrated by the governor's proposal, and almost unanimously decided to reject it and to continue the strike. [end recording]

Dismissal of Teachers

PY080356 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 5 May 79 p 1 FY

[Text] Brasilia Governor Aime Lamaison yesterday dismissed 39 teachers, most of them on the secondary level, teaching in Brasilia's suburbs. The former president of the Federal District Teachers Union and other members of the board of directors were among those dismissed. Education Minister Eduardo Portella announced that he will meet with the justice and labor ministers to seek a solution to the deadlocks in the teachers strike in Sao Paulo and Brasilia. The government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, Deputy Nelso Marchezan, has promised a teachers commission that he would intercede with the government to annul the dismissals.

INDIANS CHARGE VENEZUELAN NATIONAL GUARD BRUTALITY

PA042155 Paris AFP in Spanish 2028 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 4 May--Tunebo Indians of the Saravena region in the eastern Colombian plains have charged the Venezuelan National Guard with cruelty, torturing many of their tribe, a message received here said. According to a report addressed to the Socialist General Labor Confederation, on 24 April the Venezuelan National Guard released 46 Tunebo Indians in a border region after having imprisoned and tortured them with the garrote. Some days before, the message said, a Tunebo Indian, Nelson Velasquez, was brutally treated and latter murdered by the National Guard. The Tunebo charges were released amid growing indignation in Colombia over the recent murder of hundreds of Colombian workers in Venezuela, allegedly at the hands of the Judicial Technical Police.

POLICE REPORT CAPTURE OF TWO EPL GUERRILLAS

PA071948 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1440 GMT 7 May 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 7 May (EFE)--It was officially announced today that state security bodies have arrested Popular Liberation Army (EPL) guerrilla and philosopher Luis Arroyo Bello in this capital. According to the source, Arroyo Bello and a girl identified as Adriana Ardedeis detonated several bombs inside the Palace of Justice building in Bogota over the weekend. Apparently the two terrorists also carried out an attack last Tuesday on the U.S. Embassy's marine house, the secret police report concluded.

LABOR SEEKS EFFECTIVE CONTROL ON PRICE OF STAPLES

PA030022 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Apr 79 PA

[Excerpt] Bogota--The labor sector has asked the government for an effective mechanism to control the spiraling price of staples. It suggested that the new labor legislation grant workers a share in the earnings of the enterprises for which they work. Alvaro Ramirez Pinilla, vice president of the Union of Colombian Workers [UTC], said that any salary increases the workers obtain are neutralized when the companies pass their costs on to consumers, thereby creating a vicious circle that fuels inflation.

OIL WORKERS STRIKE ORDERED LIFTED

PA081419 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 May 79 PA

[Text] In Barrancabermeja, the labor situation in the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise [ECOPETROL] appeared to clear up in the past few hours after the strike was ordered lifted and approval was given to continue negotiations with ECOPETROL leaders. At a meeting which extended well into the night, it was decided to lift the strike approved last week by the general assembly of the Workers Labor Union [USO] in Barrancabermeja and to continue negotiations for the prompt approval by ECOPETROL of several points contained in the list of demands presented for its consideration. Everything seems to indicate that the USO leaders have definitely given up their basic demand, the reinstatement of 227 workers who had been dismissed since the 1977 strike. The negotiating committee of the workers, who held their last meeting yesterday in Barrancabermeja, will go to Bogota today to continue talks with ECOPETROL representatives.

OIL PRODUCTION REDUCED TO PROTECT RESOURCES

PA082009 Paris AFP in Spanish 1656 GMT 8 May 79 PA

[Text] Quito, 8 May (AFP)--The natural resources and energy minister announced here today that the Ecuadorean Government has established a new daily oil production rate of 204,000 barrels, a reduction by 6,000 barrels of the rate maintained since 1977. The minister said the reason for this measure is to protect the country's nonrenewable resources and to assure their just and rational utilization.

Ecuador's oil is exploited in seven fields in the eastern Amazon region by the Ecuadorian State Petroleum Corporation and by Texaco.

POSSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT-MILITARY FRICTION SEEN

PA081458 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 1255 GMT 8 May 79 PA

[Text] Jaime Roldos Aguilera, the young president-elect, 90 days from today will become the head of an untried moderate-populist government that will attempt to achieve balanced economic development and social reform. The popular support expressed in over 1 million votes [words indistinct] promised in his campaign.

The election was marked by a sharp shift in voter preference. The voters abandoned the traditional liberal and conservative parties in a desire for change, honesty and youth, which prevailed over the security, progress and stability offered by the defeated politicians. The voting harshly sanctioned conservatives, liberals and Velasquists, sectors which have seen themselves replaced in the wake of the 29 April elections.

Political sources have indicated that the electoral defeat of the traditional parties and the emergence of new currents of opinion may not have been foreseen by the military. Roldos could very well face some friction with the military regarding the choice of defense minister, a post it claims to belong to the senior general on active duty. The president-elect has reiterated that the makeup of his cabinet under the Constitution is exclusively the prerogative of the chief of state and has expressed confidence that the top military leaders will understand this when the time comes.

Following the period of high emotions, now submerged by the weight of the people's response, the country has entered a waiting period characterized by the return of a climate of tranquility and hope for democracy. Today there is expectation regarding the makeup of the legislative cadres and the opportunities which so far have not been available to certain sectors.

PRESIDENT OF MILITARY COURT RESIGNS

PA082233 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1850 GMT 8 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] Quito, 8 May (LATIN)--Retired Col Alfredo Gandara, president of the Military Court, has resigned from his post in the wake of pressure exerted on him regarding the judicial investigation of the murder of Abdon Calderon, the politician who was killed 5 months ago. The resignation is being studied by the military government triumvirate.

Gandara submitted his resignation shortly after former Government Minister Gen Bolivar Jarrin was questioned Thursday by the court for his alleged connection with Calderon's murder. The judge resigned because he "could not stand the slanderous statements and insults of which he was a victim during the proceedings."

SUPREME COURT ISSUES DECISION IN FILARTIGA CASE

PY082048 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 8 May 79 p 9 PY

[Excerpts] The Supreme Court yesterday overturned the decision of the Court of Criminal Appeals, which had rejected the criminal suit against those who murdered Joel Filartiga Speratti in Sajonia [Asuncion city district] on 30 March 1976. The Filartiga family can thus revive the legal process which has been at a standstill for almost a year.

The court decision says "uncertainty, doubts and mystery strongly dominate the picture in this case, and it ought to be observed that, so far, the place and time of the death of the teenager Joel Filartiga Speratti cannot be established precisely. The circumstances surrounding the event, whether there was a fight or a pending suit, whether the injuries and wounds which could be clearly seen on the body of the victim were inflicted by one person and whether those mentioned by Hugo Derlis Duarte Arredondo's counsel for the defense..." [as published]

Another paragraph of the Supreme Court decision says "the prosecution cannot be stopped at this stage in the process, thus making it impossible to arrive at a fuller and less confusing and incomplete clarification."

OPPOSITION DEPUTY DEMANDS ACTION AGAINST REPSA

PY042137 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 4 May 79 p 12 PY

[Excerpt] Justo Pastor Benitez, leader of the Radical Liberal bloc in the Chamber of Deputies, has asked the chamber to open a political debate, without using language unbecoming parliamentarians and without offending anybody, "because we come here to discuss national problems and not to offend the other deputies." He said: "We must talk about the heaven, the earth and the hell of Paraguayan politics. Some years ago Deputy Laino told us some things about Paraguayan Refinery, Inc [REPSA], and now we see that what he told us was true."

He pointed out that "REPSA is and will be a hydra that plays with all the sectors of the country without anything or anybody being able to stop it." He added that the country is in the hands of a harsh, inhuman capitalism whose only goal is to satisfy its lust for money. We would like to know what the state's policy is toward REPSA. This foreign enterprise is doing with Paraguay whatever it desires.

Benitez asked: "I would like to know who is acting backstage in favor of REPSA, which is engaged in a degrading, offensive, anachronistic and dangerous capitalism." The deputy also indicated that "we must react to REPSA's attitude," adding, "I want it understood that we are not leftists when we ask the state to do something about putting an end to the monopoly of this enterprise, a monopoly that is harming Paraguay more and more all the time."

BRIEFS

SEARCH FOR WEAPONS--The Department of Vigilance and Crimes of the police has requested a court order for a raid on two houses to seize firearms and explosives. [Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 5 May 79 p 31 PY]

ARTICLES ON SEA LIMIT, ECONOMIC SYSTEM APPROVED

PA041607 Paris AFP in Spanish 0130 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 3 May (AFP)--The principles of the 200-mile territorial sea and an economic system based on social justice were adopted today by the Peruvian Constituent Assembly with the approval of two new chapters of the Constitution. The article that was approved indicates that the state's maritime dominion includes the sea adjacent to its coasts, the seabed and subsoil up to a distance of 200 nautical miles from the baselines that the law establishes.

Regarding the republic's economic system, the article that was approved states that it is based on social justice and the democratic coexistence of various forms of property and enterprise. It guarantees the existence of state, private, cooperative, self-management and communal enterprises. It adds that private enterprise is free and is exercised in a social market economy. It also indicates that foreign trade is free and that the state promotes cooperation between peoples to obtain a more just international economic order.

VIETNAMESE OFFICIAL BEGINS LATIN AMERICA TOUR

PA070411 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2231 GMT 6 May 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 6 May (EFE)--Le Van Sau, Presidium member and vice chairman of the Vietnamese radio and television committee, said here today his country will teach China "a lesson" if it continues its hostile provocations. He said that some 600,000 Chinese soldiers supported by 700 combat aircraft and naval units are being deployed along the Chinese-Vietnamese border in a move that will endanger world peace again. The Hanoi official said the Chinese army has consolidated seven fronts along a 1,000-km sector.

Le Van Sau's (?unexpected) visit marks the beginning of a tour of several Latin American countries to inform them of the difficult situation in Indochina and the threat it represents for world security.

After his arrival from Moscow in an Aeroflot jet, the Vietnamese official held a press conference. He said China is holding hundreds of his countrymen, "mostly civilians" who participated in the brief war last February, and that Vietnam is "holding only some 200 Chinese soldiers." He also blamed Beijing for the interruption of rail, sea and land transportation between the two countries. He "deplored" the Chinese rejection of a formula presented by Hanoi to maintain a 3-5-km wide demilitarized zone along the border and said the situation had become "very tense" between the two countries since that refusal.

The Vietnamese official said that at the end of his 3-day visit to Peru he will go to Colombia.

BRIEFS

CANADIAN LOAN--Lima, 4 May (AFP)--The Canadian Government today granted Peru a \$2,343,000 loan to build a new meat packing plant in Lima. The Peruvian Government will have to put up \$2,126,000 to complete the cost of the project. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0115 GMT 5 May 79 PA]

COSTA RICA

LIBERATIONIST DEPUTIES CRITICIZE 1 MAY ADDRESS

PA080418 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 3 May 79 p 6A PA

[Text] The first session of the second period of the Legislative Assembly has opened a political debate on the 1 May presidential message which, according to National Liberation deputies, constituted "a narrative of unimportant events." The motion to analyze the message was presented by the Liberationist deputies and approved unanimously. Only members of that political group took the floor yesterday.

Dr Carlos Manuel Castillo, of San Jose, leader of the National Liberation bloc, explained the reasons his fellow party members left the parliamentary hall 1 hour after the president of the republic, Rodrigo Carazo Odio, had started to read his message. "The charges made by the president were unacceptable and showed a serious lack of consideration for the guests present at the 1 May solemn session," he said. The legislator stressed that out of consideration for himself, the distinguished leaders of his party and the entire Costa Rican nation, the Liberationist bloc will refuse to participate in the dialog proposed by Carazo as long as the government keeps up its censurable conduct and until the proper rectifications are made.

Dr Castillo said that the "kilometric" presidential message contained only two positive aspects for the Costa Rican electorate. First, he mentioned the basic programs which "Carazo claims belong to his government, but which in fact are projects initiated and sustained through the effort of the Figueres and Oduber administrations." The second, he added, is the fact that "the so-called presidential message was nothing but a collection of insignificant and unimportant events." He said that Carazo made no reference to the peace which existed when he received the country and which has been lost 12 months later, "thanks to the stupid action of his government." He finally denounced the "systematic persecution" campaign against anything that may have been the result of Liberationist actions.

Professor Claudio Sanchez Fernandez, Liberationist from Alajuela, said the position of President Carazo on 1 May at the Legislative Assembly was of one of "imperiousness and most contemptible pride." He noted that the 4-hour message displayed an unexplainable lack of consideration for the diplomatic corps, the hierarchy of our church, the magistrates and other guests."

He recalled that all presidents of the republic delivered their messages from the presidential seat reserved for them at the chairman's table. "Yesterday, however, that Costa Rican tradition was broken because Mr Carazo ordered a special dais from which to deliver the so-called presidential message." The member of parliament said the attitude of the chief of state sharply contrasted with that of Ramon Aguilar Facio, chairman of the Legislative Assembly, who read his message from his seat, as has been done in the past.

Deputy Mario Espinoza, Liberationist from Puntarenas, described the Popular Front and the Cartago Farm Party [Partido Agricola Cartagines] as cheats [turecas]. He said they claimed to be opposition groups, the same as the United Peoples's Party, "but the fact is that on 1 May I realized that there are only 25 opposition deputies here-- those of the National Liberation Party." "The rest," he affirmed, "follow the official line, and betray the voter's trust."

SOVEREIGNTY REASSERTED OVER COCOS ISLAND

PA081531 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] Two events of importance for Costa Rica were held on 30 April on Cocos Island. First, a post office with the necessary employees was established on the island. Personnel of the Public Security Ministry write to relatives monthly. In addition, there is one person of Austrian nationality and others of British, U.S. and Canadian origin who also send and receive messages. National Communications Director Alfredo Blanco said that another important event was the ratification of Costa Rica's sovereignty over Cocos Island through the issuance of a series of stamps to commemorate President Rodrigo Carazo's visit to the island.

EL SALVADOR

ROMERO VIEWS HONDURAS TIES, U.S. SENATE ACTION

PA051424 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2101 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[By Rosendo Majano]

[Text] San Salvador, 4 May (ACAN-EFE)--Salvadoran President Gen Carlos Humberto Romero said today that he hopes that "the differences with Honduras will be resolved this year." The conflict between the two countries dates from July 1969.

On that occasion, the armies of the two republics fought a 100-hour war which was stopped by the action of the Central American countries and the OAS.

The Salvadoran president mentioned the subject during a special audience which he granted to Central American planning ministers who are here to attend a seminar on "identification, promotion and financing of regional industrial projects." President Romero inaugurated the seminar on Thursday night. The meeting, which will end on 5 May, is sponsored by the IDB, the Central American Bank of Economic Integration and the Salvadoran Institute for Industrial Development.

During this morning's meeting at the presidential house, Honduran Planning Secretary Virgilio Caceres Pineda said that "peace between Honduras and El Salvador will hopefully be reached in the not too distant future." He noted that the Central American countries cannot live separate lives and that they cannot appear disunited before the concert of nations. President Romero said he hopes the next time they see each other will be to toast the restoration of relations. The chief executive also sent greetings to the Honduran chief of state and the other members of the government junta. He extended his greetings to the former presidents of the neighboring country who, Romero stated, have been his friends for a long time.

Salvadoran Foreign Ministry circles have been discussing the possibility that the two nations might resume diplomatic relations this September through the work of mediator Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero, a Peruvian jurist with whom the foreign ministers of the disputing countries have been meeting.

The Salvadoran president toned down the importance of Democratic Senator Frank Church's recommendation to the U.S. Senate to cut economic aid to this country and other Central American, South American and Caribbean nations. He stressed that Senator Church is trying to win votes for reelection and noted that his motion is merely a recommendation.

He spoke about a possible meeting of Central American presidents at an unspecified time and place to discuss matters of common interest. General Romero finally noted that International Labor Day was marked in a democratic fashion in El Salvador, in an atmosphere of widespread freedom, and that some insignificant events did not mar the festivities. He added that the minor disturbances were staged by provocateurs.

MINISTER PLAYS DOWN REPORT ON U.S. AID CUTOFF

PA041534 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2055 GMT 3 May 79 PA

[By Rene Contreras]

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 4 May (ACAN-EFE)--Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth today played down reports about the suspension of U.S. economic aid to this country. He said that the suspension had been proposed by a member of the Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. Senate which is presided over by Senator Frank Church. Rodriguez noted that although the committee accepted the suggestion, he wanted to note that this was nothing but a recommendation or, in other words, that it is not binding on the State Department. He added that this was a mere recommendation which may or may not be complied with by the State Department in its operations or functions.

"Therefore, it should be no surprise to us if, based on any reason, information or political or personal attitude, a senator makes a request of this type and it is supported by the other members of that committee," the foreign minister said. On the other hand, he said that representatives of the U.S. State Department had reported yesterday at the Foreign Relations Committee that there has been a substantial improvement in the human rights situation in El Salvador.

Later on, Rodriguez said that it was good for this latest news to be known in addition to that on the proposed suspension of aid. The Senate committee recommended that economic assistance to Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador and Paraguay be suspended by law in view of the human rights situation in those countries.

Regarding the conflict with Honduras, the foreign minister said that extraordinary progress has been made not only through the mediation efforts, but through direct contacts with his counterpart and between delegations of both countries. He also noted that the problems with the neighboring nation will be solved all at once. Diplomatic relations will be reestablished and there will be free transit on the basis of the respective traffic regulations. In other words, the present barriers will disappear, Rodriguez Porth said. On the question of the border, which is the topic that has divided public opinion the most, Rodriguez said that the mechanism necessary to delimit it will be found.

BPR EMBASSY OCCUPATION ENTERS FIFTH DAY

Escape of Costa Rican Hostages

PA081456 San José Radio Reloj in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] Costa Rican Ambassador Julio Esquivel Valverde, secretary Rosemary Guevara and civil attache Anabel Castillo have escaped from the embassy in El Salvador leaving three members of the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc [BPR] inside. Rosemary and Anabel managed to escape yesterday afternoon while the ambassador was having lunch with his captors in the dining room. Fifteen minutes later Ambassador Esquivel managed to escape through the garage. He deceived the guerrillas by asking for a drink.

Jose Antonio Herrera, Costa Rican commercial attache in El Salvador, began talking with the guerrillas through the embassy's windows. Herrera said that everything seems to be progressing satisfactorily because he had gained the captors' confidence. They wanted to communicate with the French Embassy but this was rejected. They had been given until noon yesterday to release the hostages. However, the Costa Rican diplomats escaped at 1800 yesterday as part of the plan.

No Change at French Embassy

PA082230 Paris AFP in Spanish 2124 GMT 8 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 8 May (AFP)--Philippe Cuvillier, French emissary and director of the French Foreign Ministry America Department, has told AFP that he is "continuing to make efforts" and that he is maintaining his "confidence in the Salvadoran authorities, who are cooperating with me." The situation at the embassy has not changed and it is apparently a peaceful occupation, he added. He indicated that he could not give any other details on his actions.

Reliable sources have reported that Costa Rica today reiterated its offer to grant political asylum to the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc (BPR) commandos. France made a similar offer on Monday while President Carlos Romero offered to grant safe-conducts so that the commandos could leave the country. Nevertheless, the BPR members rejected those offers, indicating that they wanted to stay in El Salvador.

President Romero has stated that he will not negotiate with the "subversives." "The armed forces will fulfill their duty and will fight sedition, subversion and terrorism," he said in a speech on the occasion of Soldier's Day.

New Ultimatum; Army Dispersal

LD082210 Paris Domestic Service in French 2100 GMT 8 May 79 LD

[Text] A new ultimatum has been issued in San Salvador by the commando group of the People's Revolutionary Bloc, which has been holding six hostages at the French Embassy for the last 5 days. Among the hostages is the French ambassador, who has announced that they have no more food left and that an outbreak of dysentery has occurred. The Costa Rican Government has reiterated its offer to receive all members of the commando group in exchange for the liberation of the hostages.

I have just received the news that there has been shooting in the center of San Salvador. The army has intervened to disperse some 400 people who had staged a demonstration in support of the People's Revolutionary Bloc commando group. It would appear that several dozen people have been injured.

Street Disturbances, Forced Broadcast

PA081946 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1815 GMT 8 May 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 8 May (ACAN-EFE)--Street disturbances resulted today from a demonstration staged by the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc (BPR), while other members of that Salvadoran leftwing organization occupied a radio station. The BPR demonstrators had been marching along the capital city's streets to express support for their comrades who occupied the Costa Rican and French embassies and the cathedral on Friday.

When the marchers arrived at the government center several shots were fired into the air and the demonstrators began heading in a different direction. It has not yet been possible to determine whether anyone was injured in the incident. Several police cars continued to patrol the area even after the demonstrators had left.

Meanwhile, on km 13 of the northern highway, several BPR members made announcer Tony Alvarenga broadcast a message on Radio Senorial, El Salvador's newest radio station. The station is located in the outskirts of San Salvador and only broadcasts music for young people. In their message, the BPR members demanded the release of several political prisoners, reiterating the demands of the occupants of the two embassies and the cathedral.

Two Deaths in Disturbances

PA082149 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2016 GMT 8 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 8 May (ACAN-EFE)--At least two people died today in street disturbances in front of the cathedral in downtown San Salvador. Interviewed over the telephone, a priest at the cathedral said that he could not see much because he was lying on the floor, along with other clergymen, to protect himself from the bullets. It seems BPR [Peoples Revolutionary Bloc] members and the Security Corps exchanged fire but all that could be seen at a distance was the bodies of two civilians which were motionless on the street that runs along the main entrance to the cathedral. The Security Corps have placed barricades in the vicinity of the church. Therefore, one cannot come any closer than about 400 meters.

GUATEMALA

MINISTER CLAIMS SECURITY FORCES IN CONTROL

PA081947 Paris AFP in Spanish 1748 GMT 8 May 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 May (AFP)--Government Minister Donaldo Alvarez stated today that there are leftist guerrilla centers only in the country's northwest region and that they are being fought by security forces. The minister said: "The security forces are maintaining total control over national territory except where there are geographic or other limitations."

The minister added: "It could be said, with some exceptions, there is complete calm in the country and that the security forces are trying to maintain that calm." Despite the minister's statements, every day the bodies of common criminals murdered by the death squad, a fearsome paramilitary group, are found. According to news commentators, the death squad's attitude is "an eye for an eye."

CHANGE IN BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL NOT AFFECT BELIZE

PA081834 Paris AFP in Spanish 1751 GMT 8 May 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 May (AFP)--Foreign Minister Rafael Castillo has indicated that the change from a Labour to a Conservative government in Great Britain will not substantially affect the case of Belize, the territory which Great Britain has been occupying for the past 2 centuries but which Guatemala claims as its own.

According to the minister, Guatemala will continue explaining the territorial, historic, geographic and ethical rights that back its claim. For his part, former Foreign Vice Minister Alfredo Obiols has said: "We did so badly with the Labour Party that we cannot do any worse with the Conservatives." In Guatemala circles, nonetheless, there is little hope for a softening of position.

It is believed that whereas the **Laborites** favored the independence of Belize, the Conservatives might choose to freeze the case in order not to lose a colony, since they have criticized the policy of dismembering the British Empire.

NICARAGUA

ANTITERRORIST VIGILANCE REDOUBLED IN MANAGUA

PA081300 Managua Estacion X in Spanish 0430 GMT 8 May 79 PA

[Text] According to military sources, vigilance is being redoubled in many parts of the capital in order to protect military patrols from becoming the target of terrorist attacks. This measure has been implemented because elements connected with international communism have recently been trying to terrorize citizens by creating and [words indistinct] activities that are contrary to public order.

FSLN COMMANDER ANNOUNCES FINAL OFFENSIVE

PA082138 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2125 GMT 8 May 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 May (ACAN-EFE)--Commander "Rodrigo" of the Nicaraguan Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) announced here today a "life or death" final offensive against the "bloody Somoza dictatorship." According to Commander "Rodrigo," more than 15,000 Nicaraguans, including more than 5,000 female university students, will participate in this offensive scheduled for the second half of May.

The Sandinist militant made the announcement to Guatemalan university students in Quezaltenango, Guatemala's second largest city, some 225 km west of Guatemala City. "Rodrigo" arrived in Quezaltenango last night from Mexico. He established contacts with university students to deliver a lecture on "the atrocities of the Somoza dynasty." He illustrated his lecture with films on the war in September and subsequent actions. According to reports which reached Guatemala City, Commander "Rodrigo" left Guatemala today presumably to go to another Central American country.

SANDINISTS SEIZE STATION, BROADCAST MESSAGE

PA081514 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] Managua--Sandinist cells ambushed 2 military patrols the night before last in Granada, 45 km southeast of Managua, leaving 1 soldier wounded, according to military sources. Almost concurrently, another Sandinist squad seized Radio Granada for 10 minutes and broadcast a message asking the people to join the insurrection movement.

BUSINESS SECTOR DEMANDS RELEASE OF POLITICAL LEADERS

PA082134 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1846 GMT 8 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 8 May (LATIN)--Representatives of several business sectors asked the government today to immediately release Alfonso Robelo Callejas, one of the most prominent opposition leaders. According to business sector sources, the industrialists protested in person at the secretariat of the presidency and demanded the release of Rafael Cordova Rivas, another opposition leader. According to Col Aquiles Aranda, National Guard public relations chief, Robelo and Rivas are being investigated in connection with arms trafficking from Costa Rica and "will be turned over to the common courts within the legal period." Ten days is the longest a person can be detained at the disposal of the general command. According to a government source, if the authorities do not press any charges, the prisoners will be released.

MALMIERCA ENDS VISIT TO BELGIUM

FLO81328 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1302 GMT 8 May 79 FL

[Text] A report received from Brussels announces that Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli has concluded his visit to Belgium. The TASS report adds that the Cuban foreign minister held talks in Brussels with his Belgian counterpart Henri Simonet to discuss matters dealing with the further development of bilateral cooperation and international problems of mutual interest for the two countries.

MEXICAN SUGAR DELEGATION VISITS CAMAGUEY

FLO82012 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1823 GMT 8 May 79 FL

[Text] Lic Mario Trujillo Garcia, who heads the Mexican sugar delegation which is in our country, has visited the new sugar mill under construction, Battala de las Guasimas, located in Vertientes municipality, Camaguey Province. In speaking with the Camaguey construction workers, Lic Trujillo praised the work being done and stated that the Cuban workers in that important sector make the Cuban industrial development plans come true. The Mexican lawyer expressed his admiration to the workers building the sugar mill in Vertientes for the high rate of development seen in Cuba since his last visit 5 years ago. Today the Mexican delegation will visit the main Cuban machine building plant in Santa Clara and the work at the sugarcane experimental station in Matanzas.

ROCA DEPARTS ON TOUR OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

FLO81113 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 8 May 79 FL

[Text] Accompanied by a delegation, Blas Roca Calderio, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the National Peoples Government Assembly, departed yesterday on a tour of six European socialist countries. The tour, which is being made in response to invitations from the respective countries' national assemblies, includes Bulgaria, the GDR, Hungary, Romania, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union. Prior to departure, Roca announced that he will also visit Portugal where he will attend the ninth congress of the Portuguese Communist Party.

MPSP SENDS GREETINGS TO USSR, CZECHOSLOVAKIA

FLO82204 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 8 May 79 FL

[Text] The Cuban Movement of Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples [MPSP] has sent separate greetings messages to their counterpart organizations in the USSR and Czechoslovakia on the occasion tomorrow of the commemoration of the 34th anniversary of victory over fascism. The document addressed to the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace reiterates the indestructible friendship between Cuba and Lenin's homeland and stressed the international gratitude and appreciation for the historic USSR victory for mankind's progress. For its part the message sent to the Czechoslovak Peace Committee salutes the achievements made by that fraternal country on the successful path of building socialism.

ESPIN CHAIRS GRADUATION OF ETHIOPIAN WOMEN

FLO81756 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 May 79 FL

[Excerpt] Vilma Espin, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), has chaired a ceremony marking the end of a political and ideological improvement course for women leaders of the fraternal Ethiopian nation at the FMC National Cadre School. Twenty-eight students graduated from this first course.

Dora Carcano, alternate member of the Central Committee, (Yamila Gomez), director of the school, and other officials participated in the ceremony. Comrade Vilma Espin made the closing remarks.

[Begin Espin recording] With deep satisfaction we close today this political and ideological improvement course given at our Fe del Valle National Cadre School for 6 months. Two hundred and nine days have passed since 1 October 1978 when you, dear comrades, arrived in our school to enhance your knowledge of the only scientific ideology-Marxism-Leninism-conscious that only a systematic study of this ideology and its consistent and creative application will help to solve the different and complex problems which contemporary social development raises and advance successfully toward the building of a new society. [end recording]

ANGOLAN YOUTH IN EASTERN PROVINCES HOLD MEETING

FL081932 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1806 GMT 8 May 79 FL

[Text] The first meeting of Angolan students in the Cuban eastern provinces has met in Holguin, presided over by (Luis Neto Quiambate), charge d'affaires of the People's Republic of Angola to Cuba. The meeting pointed out the achievements made in student graduation, academic studies and discipline maintained by the more than 50 students who pledged to improve their organization and to take advantage of the experiences of the Cuban student body.

The delegates elected the executives of the [student] union which is made up of eight members headed by (Juan da Silva), as coordinator, and they approved the statutes of the organization, the emulation plan and the discipline regulations. (Neto Quiambate) called for strengthening the process of selecting youth into the MPLA, which previously was massive, and stressed the importance of training technicians and professionals for Angola.

SIX KILLED, 13 INJURED IN SUGAR MILL ACCIDENT

FL081807 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 May 79 FL

[Text] Many persons have gone to blood banks in Sancti Spiritus in response to a call made by Radio Sancti Spiritus due to the regrettable accident that occurred at the Uruguay sugar mill which resulted in 6 dead and 13 injured. The accident occurred when the walls of a metallic tank for final molasses broke. The tank had a capacity of more than 8,300 tons and had about 5,000 tons of the product when it broke. Leaders of the party, government and political and mass organizations immediately went to the site of the accident to find out about victims and damage. As we have announced, six workers were killed and 13 injured, mostly from burns. Six of the injured are reported to be in very serious condition.

BRIEFS

NEW COOPERATIVES--The Matanzas Province municipality of Perico and Cacocun municipality of Holguin Province have become the first [municipalities] in their respective provinces to finish establishing all the credit and service cooperatives planned for this period. There are five newly established cooperatives in Perico, which are a transition step toward superior forms of rural labor. Meanwhile it has been reported, in Cacocun, 32 local organizations devoted to sugarcane agriculture and sugarcane industry have been reduced to 11 credit and service cooperatives gathering 662 peasants. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 May 79 FL]

GRENADA

GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATING FIRES IN SAINT GEORGES

FLO72139 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2106 GMT 7 May 79 FL

[Text] The revolutionary government of Grenada is analyzing two almost simultaneous fires that caused major damage to two buildings yesterday. One was started in a tourist cottage on a beach near Saint Georges, the capital of Grenada. Minutes later a second sinister fire was spotted, this time in a downtown commercial building. The two fires started at approximately at 2000 hours on Sunday and were brought under control before midnight.

Radio Free Grenada immediately began to report on the events and alerted all the people to redouble their vigilance to prevent any maneuvers against the revolution.

JAMAICA

SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE WITH GRENADA SCORES U.S.

FLO41535 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 1 May 79 p 2 FL

[Excerpt] A recently formed Grenada Solidarity Committee composed of the People's National Party, the Workers Party of Jamaica, the Communist Party of Jamaica, the People's National Party youth organisation, the Jamaica Union of Democratic Youth, the People's National Party women's movement, the Committee of Women for Progress, and the Union of Democratic Students has written to the United States ambassador to Jamaica Mr L. Lawrence, expressing its concern at the note delivered by the United States Government to the people's revolutionary government of Grenada "seeking to apply undue pressure on the Grenadian Government in its legitimate quest for military and other forms of assistance from the Cuban Government as well as other governments in defence of the people's revolution."

The letter from the committee, signed by the PNP deputy general secretary, Paul Robertson, and the WPJ general secretary, Trevor Munroe, on behalf of the committee, stated that the committee viewed "this implied threat by the United States Government and any actions which may follow in implementing this threat against the Grenadian Government and people as an attack against our members and all progressive Jamaicans.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

POLICE INCREASE PATROLS IN TOBAGO AREAS

FLO41550 Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 May 79 p 1 FL

[Text] Scarborough--Armed policemen have increased patrols of the bays and inlets of the north eastern tip of Tobago and are now operating an 18-hour shift. The patrols were first noticed a few days after the opposition backed New Jewel Movement staged a successful coup in Grenada last March 13. Police here declined to confirm or deny that they were taking preventive measures in terms of aliens landing on that part of the island.

Yesterday, a Coast Guard vessel brought another 80 armed policemen to the island to supplement those already accommodated at five stations on the island. Nevertheless, Tobagonians over the past week have been serenaded by the police band under Supt Anthony Prospect which is now on a cultural tour of the island ward.

JOINT VENTURES WITH LIBYA UNDER DISCUSSION

FLO81505 Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 May 79 p 8 FL

[Text] Georgetown, Thurs--Guyana and oil-rich Libya are discussing the possibility of establishing joint companies in marine transport, agriculture, fishing and a joint investment bank, it was announced here. The talks in Georgetown between government officials and a visiting five-member Libyan team are also centering on prospects for the export of Guyanese rice and sugar to Libya, the Information Ministry said.

These matters were first raised two years ago during a visit to Tripoli by then Guyanese Foreign Minister Fred Wills, when three agreements and agreed minutes on economic cooperation were signed. Guyana also submitted to the Libyans proposals for joint ventures in the development of this country. (CANA)

POLICE MAKE ARRESTS, RECOVER GOODS IN GEORGETOWN

FLO42053 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1930 GMT 4 May 79 FL

[Text] Reports coming out of Georgetown, Guyana, say heavily armed riot police and detectives this morning cordoned off an entire block of the capital city and arrested 31 persons said to be wanted in connection of offenses. Crime Chief (Cecil Roberts) later said that quantities of articles allegedly stolen were recovered. These included stereo sets, radio and hi-fi equipment, as well as some marihuana. Mr (Roberts) said the operations were not mounted to search for guns.

There had been opposition press reports alleging that over 30 rifles and automatic pistols held by the police after the People's Temple tragedy at Jonestown had disappeared, along with large quantities of ammunition.

OFFICIALS IN EXTERNAL TRADE BUREAU DISMISSED

FLO81515 Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 May 79 p 8 FL

[Excerpts] Georgetown, Thurs--A shake-up has taken place in the top management of the External Trade Bureau (ETB), the agency responsible for the importation and distribution of essential commodities in Guyana, informed sources said. Three management staffers are being dismissed in the wake of alleged inefficiency and unfair distribution of goods, the sources added. A fourth high-level manager in either the Guyana Stores Limited or the Guyana National Trading Corporation (GNTC) is also being sacked. Neither those being dismissed nor their replacement have been publicly identified.

Prime Minister Forbes Burnham told of the dismissal decision at a big May Day rally at the National Park here yesterday. There has been no follow-up announcement from the government, but it is believed that a statement will be issued before weekend.

The ETB was established a decade ago to deal with counterparts in socialist countries as the Burnham government moved to diversify its trading links away from the traditional Western sources. But in the years since the state has taken over much of the responsibility for importations and distribution of essential goods, and the bureau has become a vital agency in this respect.

The bureau came under heavy fire at a three-day general council meeting of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC), along with the Post Office Corporation. A resolution approved by the council spoke of 'disturbing questions as to the fairness and efficiency of the distribution' carried out by the agency, and called on the government to set up a commission of inquiry. Mr Burnham was more blunt when he spoke on complaints about difficulties in securing goods, favouritism in distribution, and blackmarketing. (CANA)

CHILE

ITALIAN PLANE CRASH--Chilean and Argentine civilian aeronautics services are searching for an Italian plane which had an accident somewhere in the southern region of Chile. A ham radio operator was the first person to receive an SOS fall. Immediately after the proper authorities were advised of the accident they started an intense search. The beechcraft MA-33-F belongs to the Italian Tourism Department and was making a tour through Latin America. It is believed that the plane is carrying about 24 persons. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 May 79 PY]

INFLATION, GROWTH FIGURES-- The director of the National Statistics Department, Sergio Chaparro, reported yesterday that in April the consumer price index increased by 2.6 percent. As a result of this, the inflation rate for this year is now 9.6 percent. The official also reported that real salaries grew 11 percent in the first quarter while industrial growth for the same period was 16.7 percent. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 May 79 PY]

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

U.S. POSTPONES SALE OF MILITARY PLANES

PA060332 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0213 GMT 6 May 79 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 5 May (EFE)--The U.S. Government has postponed the sale of military planes to the Dominican Republic for 2 years, the evening newspaper ULTIMA HORA reports today. According to the paper, which quotes "reliable sources," the planes would not be ready for sale until 2 years from now. It adds that the U.S. Embassy has sent a note to this effect to the Santo Domingo Government via its Foreign Ministry. ULTIMA HORA disclosed 1 month ago that the Dominican Air Force was negotiating the purchase of 12 A-37 combat planes from the United States to replace its old F-51's, which date back to World War II. According to the paper, the purchase would be made through a special military aid program under which governments may acquire U.S. war materiel.

MEXICO

REDUCTION OF PROTECTIONISM IN GATT SOUGHT

PA041401 Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Text] Mexico's participation in the multilateral negotiations of the GATT has sought to decrease protectionist pressures in developed countries. This was said by Hector Hernandez, Mexican under secretary of foreign trade, who also explained that despite the problems of world trade, Mexico insists on the goal of intensifying its trade. The official said that if we wait until conditions improve, our country will not have a solid export sector and then we would be practically excluded from world markets.

FORMER GUERRERO STATE OFFICIAL KIDNAPED

PA051510 Paris AFP in Spanish 0234 GMT 5 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 4 May (AFP)--An unidentified group today kidnaped Eduardo Lopez Betancourt, former public prosecutor and secretary of government of Guerrero State, western Mexico. Lopez, who at present lives in Mexico City, was abducted as he was going to work. He is the director of social services of the National University. So far the kidnapers have not revealed if their aim is ransom or if Lopez was taken in connection with his former activities in Guerrero State.

BRIEFS

FOREST CONCESSIONS CANCELED--The federal government has canceled forest concessions to farms that have exploited the true owners of these resources for over 30 years. Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, under secretary of forests and fauna, added that Mexico has not been able to improve the management and reforestation projects but stated that the government's policy is directed toward improving forest exploitation. [Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 4 May 79 PA]

PANAMA

ATTACK AGAINST FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION DENOUNCED

PA082318 Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 May 79 PA

[From the "Comentarios y Opiniones del Profesor Don Lucho" program with Lucho Pimentel]

[Excerpts] Juan Carrete's column "En Broma y En Serio" in the newspaper CRITICA was canceled today by the directors of Editora Renovacion, S.A. This is another attack against freedom of expression. Why the devil do they not cancel "El Cafetin" and a bunch of columns which only degrade Panamanians? No, on the contrary, they close all the columns which have popular support and seek to renew our society.

From an objective point of view, what has happened to Juan Carrete's column is just another attack against freedom of expression. We must reach certain conclusions with this development, dear listeners. In this country, which I love very much and refuse to leave, with this new attack against freedom of expression we must again refer to the so-called press law. Who does that law protect? What is the press law? I have said before that the press law is only a political instrument, the prize given to the servile, the bootlickers of this country to continue praising, cleaning the boots of the regime. I have said this repeatedly,

Juan Carrete's case is simple. He has maintained a totally anticommunist line in his column and in the escalation, he fell and the communists went up one step more. We Panamanians do not realize this because the worst has not happened to us yet. When are we going to wake up? When are we going to realize that the worst is what we have now. We are not living in a good situation. We cannot say we are living in a democracy, in a country of opportunities. In this country, the opportunities are all given to the communists, only to the communists. We, the rest of the Panamanians, have to suffer that escalation and accept, little by little, the steps they ascend because we do not decide to do anything.

URUGUAY

OIL EXPLORATION--The Uruguayan Government has given authorization to a French enterprise to carry out oil exploration in the continental shelf near the Brazilian border. [Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 7 May 79 PY]

GOLD PURCHASES--Uruguay bought \$5 million worth of gold from the International Monetary Fund, 20,000 ounces at \$246 per ounce. This gold will be kept abroad due to the excessive cost of transporting it to Montevideo. Uruguay now has gold reserves totaling four million ounces. [Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 4 May 79 PY]

FOREIGN DEBT--Montevideo, 2 May (AFP)--The Central Bank has officially reported that the Uruguayan foreign debt amounted to \$1,251,100,000 as of 31 December 1978, which is lower than that of 1977, when it amounted to \$1,388,700,000. The report states that Uruguay will have to pay \$141.4 million this year, \$81.7 million in 1980, and \$72.8 million in 1981. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1509 GMT 2 May 79 PY]